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REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5-24 are pending. Claim 4 has been cancelled.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. 112

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim 21 has been amended to delete reference to "preceding claims" and to include the limitations related to the separation device of claim 1, as amended herein. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the §112 rejection of claim 21 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-3 and 7-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Piana in view of Wright.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 4 contains allowable subject matter.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 4. Therefore, claim 1 is believed to be in allowable condition and it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 3 and 5-20 depend upon allowable claim 1 and are believed allowable for the same reasons as given with respect to claim 1, as well as for the further limitations contained therein. It is respectfully requested that the §103 rejections of claims 2, 3 and 5-20 be withdrawn.

Claim 21 has been amended to correspond to the amendments made herein to claim 1 and is also believed to be in allowable condition for the same reasons as given with respect to claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the §103 rejection of claim 21 be withdrawn.

Claim 22 has been amended to incorporate, in a corresponding manner, the limitations of claim 4, and therefore, is also believed to be in allowable condition for the same reasons as given with respect to claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the §103 rejection of claim 22 be withdrawn.

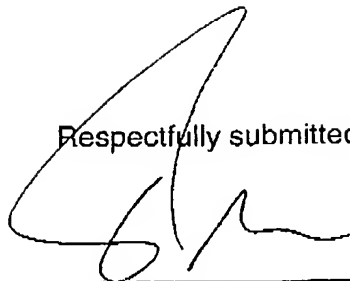
Claims 23 and 24 depend upon allowable claim 22 and are believed allowable for the same reasons as given with respect to claim 22, as well as for the further limitations contained therein. It is respectfully requested that the §103 rejections of claims 23 and 24 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All matters having been addressed above and in view of the pending claims and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Applicants counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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